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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Templin Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 29 October 1953

REFERENCES [REDACTED] 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. During the period from 20 September to 5 October 1953, [REDACTED] at the Kannenburg firing range [REDACTED] 120-mm mortars emplaced in forest section 82/83 fired at targets in forest section 112/113. They had been hauled there by trucks [REDACTED] There were scarcely any combat practices by infantry. Soldiers engaged in field training, cover and concealment, close combat, and received ordnance instruction. Machine gun fire was heard several times. AA machine guns fired at towed sleeve targets in the Gross Beutelsee area. From 29 September to 8 October, engineers practiced blasting and soldiers laid mine fields with AT mines. Source saw that some of the soldiers carried a mine-carrying device in the manner of a knapsack, with four mines stored between four band iron hoops and closed up by a band iron on top. No tank and SP gun firing was observed during the period under review. T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] [REDACTED] practiced aiming in the terrain. SP guns [REDACTED] had a searchlight which source believed was an infra-red searchlight and which was installed above the right side of the gun. No artillery, AT gun and rocket launcher firing was observed during the period under review. Columns of trucks carrying ammunition, fuel and barbed-wire were repeatedly observed crossing the training grounds during the first days of October, coming from the direction of Fuerstenberg and proceeding via Tangerdorf and Annenwalde. Traces of straw lay in the direction of the troop training grounds from the direction of Rosdelin. ¹
2. From 15 to 20 September, about 20 sideroads were still blocked along the new blocked line on the Templin-Lychen road. ¹ Dwellings which belonged to the Lychen hospital were vacated in Hohenlychen. Billeting equipment was loaded at the Lychen freight station on 20 September. [REDACTED]
3. At 2 a.m. on 22 September, a train carrying tanks passed through Templin from the direction of Lychen toward Kannenburg. At 2 p.m. on 22 September, armored scout-car [REDACTED] and one jeep and trucks [REDACTED] passed through Templin toward Kannenburg from the direction of Lychen. Trucks [REDACTED] carrying billeting equipment passed through Templin toward Prenzlau from the direction of Kannenburg on 29 September. ¹ If these trucks returned unloaded on 2 October. On 30 September, 1 ambulance and trucks [REDACTED] passed through Templin toward Prenzlau in the direction of Kannenburg. ¹

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4. On 2 October, the new barracks installation northwest of Vogelsang was nearing completion. Painters, cabinet-makers and glazers as well as plumbers were working in almost all buildings. It was not yet determined when the troops would move in. Twelve wooden sheds north of the installation were referred to by workmen as tank sheds. ³

5. At 4 p.m. on 2 October, about 10 trucks [redacted] were unloaded at the Zehdenick railroad station. [redacted]

6. At 10:30 a.m. on 29 September, 10 trucks carrying personnel, 15 trucks armed with AA machine guns and each occupied by 3 soldiers and 5 trucks towing AA guns and, at 11 a.m., 20 trucks, occupied by personnel, and between 25 and 30 T-34/85 tanks respectively left Camp Vogelsang toward south via the new road and in the same direction via the forest road parallel with the new road. [redacted]

[redacted] tanks were dug in on both sides of the Vogel-sang-Neuhof road. ¹

7. On 5 October, 17 [redacted] T-34 tanks were unloaded at the Vogelsang railroad station. ⁵

8. On 22 September, Camp Kannenburg and Camp Vogelsang were still occupied with the previous units. On 12 September, 6 trucks [redacted] carrying about 160 soldiers armed with infantry weapons and having baggage proceeded toward Eberswalde. From 12 to 22 September, units daily went to, and returned from, the training area. [redacted]

Motorized units and units with T-34 and T-34/85 tanks were seen at the Kannenburg troop training grounds and near Vogelsang during the period under review. [redacted]

[redacted] Three to 4 T-34 tanks daily practiced driving via Kannenburg and Koedelin.

9. On 25 September, sedan [redacted] parked in front of the house of a general. On 26 September, about 5,000 soldiers ran in double-time on the road toward Vogelsang. ¹

10. From 21 to 27 September, [redacted] new barracks installations northwest of Vogelsang which [redacted] belonged to a winter camp. There also was a camp of the Bauunion. ²

1. [redacted] Comment. The present information tends to indicate that headquarters units of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army, units of the 25th Tank Div and minor elements of the 6th Gds Mecz Div were still stationed at the Templin troop training grounds until late September and early October. [redacted] individual and special training as well as training at apparently regimental level continued. Preparations for the transfer of the 25th Tank Div made in late September confirm information in early October on the division returning to its posts in Brenzlau and Oranienburg and elements being loaded at the troop training grounds. [redacted]

[redacted] from 12 to 22 September, units of, probably, the 9th Gds Tank Div also practiced in the training area. It is believed hardly credible, however, that these units should have practiced in the area of Camps Kannenburg and Vogelsang instead of along the northern border of the training grounds.

2. [redacted] Comment. Other information indicated that the Hohenlychen hospital transferred to Neuruppin. [redacted]

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25X1 3. [redacted] Comment. Compare similar observations in mid-September [redacted]

25X1 4. [redacted] Comment. Probably a headquarters unit of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army which participated in practices of the Third Shock Army and which [redacted] to Zehdenick from Mahlwinkel.

25X1 5. [redacted] Comment. Probably return of a tank unit of the 25th Tank Div from the exercises north of Berlin which are known from previous information. Trains of the division which went from Bernau and Buch to Vogelsang on 5 and 6 October were repeatedly confirmed.

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